

Frequently Asked Questions;

How do I apply?

To qualify you must meet age and income requirements as well as residency guidelines. For specific information call Chelsea Senior Center at 617-466-4372. Application may be obtained at the Senior Center 10 Riley Way, Chelsea, MA 02150, or download from City of Chelsea Web site, [Chelsea Elder Services](#)

What is the time-frame of the program?

The program begins on January 1, 2017 and runs through October 31, 2017. You may accumulate up to 100 hours of hours worked between April and November, which will be credited towards your following February tax bill (2018) you must reapply every year and meet the requirements each time you apply. Working less than the 100 will be pro-rated accordingly.

What are the qualifications?

- Must be 60 years or more.
- Must be owner occupied (or spouse of owner)
- Must be beneficiary or trustee on deed of said property
- Income may not exceed \$45,000.00 for a senior household of 1 person, or \$58,000.00 for a senior Household of (2)
- Seniors will receive a record of their credit against their property tax bill .The rate will be credited at the State minimum wage per hour worked (current \$10.00 per hour). (MGL ch.59 Section 5K)
- All hours worked must be completed by the participant. No other person can work on the senior's behalf to fulfill hours.

What about withholding taxes?

Money earned through the Tax Work-Off Program is reportable income for federal taxes only. Participants will receive a W-2 form for the amount of money earned through the program.

Will I have to report the income?

Yes you will be given a W-4 form, in which federal taxes, FICA, and Medicare will be deducted and you will receive a W-2 that reflects the hours worked, which will need to be report to the IRS as income.

Do I need to reapply every year?

Yes you will need to reapply every January for the coming year and you must meet the guidelines including income every year. The Deadline will be December 31 for all applications to be received for the Calendar Year.

What if I cannot work the hours all at once?

You have from April through November to complete up to the 100 hours. A time sheet is kept by the department head and the Human Resources Department. Work schedules can be stopped and restarted for any reason if needed.

How many abatements am I allowed?

You are allowed to apply and be granted as many abatements as you are eligible for, however you cannot exceed your tax credit for more than 10%. You must pay at least a 10% tax; you can never have a creditor zero balance for your taxes owed after all abatements apply.

Is there a limited number of openings?

Yes, there is a limit of 25 applicants per year. The deadline to apply is December 31, 2016. A lottery will held if we exceed the number of applicants. All lottery participants will be notified by U.S. certified mail as to results of the lottery and you will be contacted for scheduling and duties.

When will I receive my Abatement?

You will receive your abatement in February of the next calendar year. If you worked beginning January 3, 2017 and ended before October 31, 2017 then your abatement would be applied to your February 2018 tax bill.